The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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AIR SHIP PROFITEERS LOOT U. S. TREASURY

New York, May 4.—With the ousting of the air craft board by President Wilson sensational disclosures are being made on the manner in which the government has been looted of nearly a billion dollars. To date the air ship program has not developed a single plane, while democracy is endangered on the western front and the looters covering their tracks with shouts of "watch the trade unions."

In an article published in the New York Times, Gutzon Bergium, special investigator appointed by the president to study the causes of the failure in air craft production, says that Chief Signal Officer Squier was "the official rubber stamp for a group of American junkers necessary to them to release nearly a billion dollars which they placed precisely as they, in their uninformed advisory capacity, chose and distributed to their own or affiliated interests, all to serve a common plan and purpose, and all under a contract system so ingenious that it could in time absorb the entire appropriation and not deliver a serviceable plane—and this, in fact, it has largely accomplished."

It is declared that the conduct of the government's air craft board was "unfair, unjustified, and, in the nation's emergency, criminal."

These looters, their newspaper backers and others, are paying less attention to this squandering of the people's money and an absence of air planes in this world crisis than they would to a group of workers who have been forced on strike by an employer's refusal to arbitrate demands for a living wage.

NO SHIP-LABOR SHORTAGE.

Washington, May 4.—"At this time of reports of great shortages of ship yard labor it is important for the country to note that these reports do not emanate from the ship yards themselves, but from those who have no knowledge of the real situation," writes William E. Hall, national director of the United States public service reserve, to Chairman Hurley of the shipping board.

"With the exception of the original shipbuilding trades, such as ship carpenters, ship fitters and calkers," continues Mr. Hall, "the yards are receiving all the men they need, and the United States employment service, through its 200 branch offices in the industrial districts and the registrants in the public service reserve, is able to fill all present and future requirements. Wild reports of great ship yard labor shortages are harmful, causing men to quit jobs and go to yards only to find no openings for them.

"The ship yards are just about to begin calling for men of the trades. Four of the largest yards in the world are completing construction and soon will call for operatives. When these calls are received skilled men will be obtained largely from the classified lists of the public service reserve through the branches of the employment service."

INDORSE WAR LABOR BOARD.

New York, May 4.—The national war labor board was indorsed at the annual convention of the National Metal Trades association, which pledged its support to the recommendations of the board. The several branches and members of the association were urged to make known their adhesion to the plan proposed as a demonstration of their practical patriotism.

Worcester, Mass., May 4.—The Labor News of this city suggests that the local branch of the National Metal Trades association accept the latter's attitude toward the national war labor board. The Labor News says:

"What effect the spirit which dominated the convention will have upon local members of the Metal Trades association who attended the convention is, of course, problematical, but it would seem that if they possess an iota of patriotism and good will toward the government that is not wholly eliminated at least their antagonism to trade unionism will be made less apparent."

W. U. EVADES DRAFT ACT.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 4.—President Joyner of the Commercial Telegraphers' union has notified Washington authorities that the Western Union Telegraph company is violating the draft act. He charges that the company makes affidavits that certain men are necessary to the service and then discharges them for a matter not connected with their ability or willingness to serve the nation, blacklisting them so that they cannot obtain employment with the Postal Telegraph.

The unionist says that Western Union "is securing exemption for certain of its employes who are really not necessary appendages to the service for the purpose of carrying out its own personal and selfish ends in crushing the Commercial Telegraphers' union."

VIOLATE "NATURAL" LAW.

Washington, May 4.—The government has violated the "natural" law of supply and demand by arbitrarily announcing the price it will pay for meat during May. As the packers are confronted with the fear of having their plants seized by Uncle Sam they are powerless to stop this disregard of their pet theory.

The government has fixed a price of 24 1-2 cents a pound for steers that average 500 to 800 pounds, delivered at New York, and frozen, wrapped and commercial trimmed for export.

The packers are notified that they must not attempt to increase prices for the domestic trade just because Uncle Sam refuses to be gouged.

OPPOSE 50-HOUR WEEK BILL.

Boston, May 4.—General Goethals of the United States army opposes the bill that would limit women and minors under 15 years of age to a 50-hour week. The experience of England seems to have been forgotten by this army official, who writes:

"I feel confident that the legislature of Massachusetts will do nothing that will tend to restrict the output of manufacturing plants in this time of stress."

PRINTER ELECTED MAYOR.

Clarksburg, W. Va., May 4.—Joseph N. Craddock, a member of the Typographical union, has been elected mayor of this city on a non-partisan ticket. He was actively supported by the central labor and trades council.

WAR BASIS NECESSARY FOR LASTING VICTORY

Chicago, May 4.—Every ounce of national power that is misdirected is an ounce of power lost in the struggle against Germany, writes Professor Harold Glenn Moulton of the University of Chicago, in urging the necessity for placing America on a war basis.

The writer says the United States government is aware of this necessity but it is important that every citizen understand what developments are in store for us to the end that we may co-operate in fullest measure with the government in its efforts.

Prof. Moulton quotes Hon. R. H. Brand, vice chairman of the British war mission to this country, who said:

"The ravenous demands of a modern war compel every nation at war to choose between peace and war; if they have elected for war, they must order their economic lives accordingly; they must turn their industry from a peace to a war basis, and they must see that every war demand has a prior claim to every peace demand."

Prof. Moulton is not impressed with the claim that Germany "is nearly done." Instead, the educator declares that "the evidence of the past year points to an opposite conclusion."

He shows that whatever success Germany has thus far secured is because of industrial organization coupled with a merciless military machine, while England and France were depending the first years of the war on "muddling through."

"As soon as it became apparent that the war would be long-continued," he writes, "Germany set about the eliminating of all nonessential industries; factories which had been producing luxuries were converted into munitions or supplies plants, where possible; and where this was not possible they were closed down and the laborers transferred for war service in essential industries.

"Germany thus early got right down to brass tacks.

"All useless efforts, all waste motion, as far as possible, was thus eliminated—everything was arranged with an eye single to military victory."

COMPENSATION PLAN BEST.

Washington, May 4.—A comparative study of employers' liability and workmen's compensation systems, and their relative effect in compelling women and children of injured workmen to seek employment, has been published by the United States bureau of labor statistics, in bulletin 217. The report emphasizes the superiority of compensation over employers' liability laws in meeting the economic loss sustained by the family through the death or injury of the principal breadwinner. It was found, however, that existing compensation laws are far from adequate.

The important differences between workmen's compensation and employers' liability systems may be summed up by saying that in the compensation states the families of victims of industrial fatalities knew with reasonable certainty what they might expect, received it with reasonable promptness, and found it, in general, sufficient to keep them from extreme hardship. In the liability state of Pennsylvania the families of decedents had no such assurance; in general the payments received were quite inadequate to the needs of the families, and not far from one-fourth of those visited had within less than a year from the fatality been obliged to seek charitable aid.

MACHINE HELPS SHORTAGE.

Tacoma, Wash., May 4.—Chief Grain Inspector Sweeney says there have been very few complaints of a farm-labor shortage as many farmers are using tractors for plowing and seeding, enabling them to dispense with some of the surplus labor which it is customary to use in seeding time.

Portland, Ore., May 4.—"The farm labor situation just at the present time is well in hand," writes J. W. Brewer of the United States department of agriculture, who is assisting farmers to secure sufficient labor.

"On the strength of a very determined campaign in the wheat raising counties," he said, "a uniform wage of $60 a month has been established.

"Some districts that formerly used a considerable number of transient laborers, combined this year and through the interchange of labor have been able to plant their crops without

HOUSING PROBLEM PRESSES.

San Francisco, May 4.—The housing problem, says the Labor Clarion, is one that is having considerable to do with the success of our shipbuilding program and the furnishing of munitions and implements of warfare to our army. Men who work in the Vallejo navy yard and are compelled to live in San Francisco or Oakland because of the lack of housing facilities near their work are handicapped by the fact that they have to spend four hours a day traveling to and from their work. This traveling month after month accounts for much lost time, as well as tiring the workers to such an extent that their efficiency is impaired. The sooner this condition of affairs is remedied the better.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS GAIN.

Seattle, May 4.—The Photo Engravers' union has given a fine example of trade union effort in their new two-year agreement. This year's minimum will be $34.50 a week, and next year's will be $36. The night scale is $5 a week over day rates. The work week is 44 hours for day work and 42 hours for night work.

Toronto, Ontario, May 4.—Newspaper and photo engraving commercial shops have signed a two-year agreement with the Photo Engravers' union. The work week will be 46 1-2 hours for a $28 minimum.

"FINDS" $7,866,443.

Chicago, May 4.—The mysteries of corporation bookkeeping are shown in the annual report of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway, which discloses that the directors have "discovered" a credit of $7,866,443 which was charged to operating expenses instead of to capital account. The money was used for improvements over 15 years ago and has just been "found."

PROVIDE PUBLIC SHELTER.

Boston, May 4.—The Massachusetts house of representatives has passed a bill authorizing cities and towns to provide the common necessaries of life and shelter during the time of war, public calamity, [illegible]

UNITED IN SPIRIT AND PURPOSE

BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Will the battle line of freedom hold against the onslaughts of autocracy's military machine? This is the question uppermost in the minds of liberty loving men the world over. The answer is: It will, it must! For upon that line hangs the destiny of the world for decades to come. The line can hold back the offensive and drive the invaders out of the republic of France only if it is the concentrated expression of national determination unfailingly supplying men, munitions, food, and every accoutrement required.

Workers of America; the safety of that battle line in France depends mainly now upon us. We must furnish the majority of those in the trenches. We must build the ships that carry the troops and munitions of war. Regardless of hidden dangers we must maintain the life line of ships on the high seas which connect the fighting front with our national bases of supplies. We must make the guns, the munitions, the aeroplanes. We must have ready food, clothing, blankets. We serve in the great industrial army that serves overseas with the fighting forces.

We must do all these things because a principle is involved that has to do with all we hold dear.

We are fighting against a government that disregards the will of the governed—a government that pries into intimate relations of life and extends its supervision into smallest details and dominates all of them. We are fighting against involuntary labor—against the enslavement of women and the mutilation of the lives and bodies of little children. We are fighting against barbarous practices of warring upon civilian populations, killing the wounded, the agents of mercy and those who bear the white flag of truce.

We are fighting for the ideal which is America—equal opportunity for all. We are fighting for political and economic freedom—national and international.

We are fighting for the right to join together freely in trade unions and the freedom and the advantages represented by that right.

Our country is now facing a crisis to meet which continuity of war production is essential. Workers, decide every industrial question fully mindful of those men—fellow Americans—who are on the battle line, facing the enemies' guns, needing munitions of war to fight the battle for those of us back at home, doing work necessary but less hazardous. No strike ought to be inaugurated that can not be justified to the men facing momentary death. A strike during the war is not justified unless principles are involved equally fundamental as those for which fellow citizens have offered their lives—their all.

We must give this service without reserve until the war is won, serving the cause of human freedom, intelligent, alert, uncompromising wherever and whenever the principles of human freedom is involved.

We are in a great revolutionary period which we are shaping by molding every day relations between man and man. Workers of America as well as all other citizens have difficult tasks to perform that we might hand on to the future the ideals and institutions of America not only unimpaired, but strengthened and purified in spirit and in expression—thus performing the responsible duty of those entrusted with the high resolve to be free and perpetuate freedom.

U. S. HAS WIDE POWER UNDER SABOTAGE ACT

Washington, May 4.—The department of justice has analyzed the recently-enacted sabotage act and announces that "the fact that the act of injury or destruction, therefore, was not committed to benefit the enemy or for the purpose of hampering the prosecution of the war will furnish no excuse in a prosecution under the act."

The department states that "it is sufficient to prove that he had reason to believe that his act might injure, interfere with or obstruct the United States or one of the allies in preparing for or carrying on the war."

This decision means that where a person commits any act that would come under the general term of "sabotage" such person will be prosecuted because every one has reason to believe that such act will retard the war.

As the entire resources of the nation are at the command of the government, the department gives notice that the act has sweeping application. It says:

"In short, practically speaking, the whole industrial and agricultural resources of the United States, all of its transportation and shipping facilities, all of its public utilities and all parts thereof and all products of industry and agriculture and all parts thereof suitable for war use fall within the protection of this act.

"For the first time the United States, through its department of justice, is by this act furnished with an effective weapon against all willful acts of destruction or injury which directly or indirectly weaken or retard the preparations for the war or the actual conduct of the war."

A violator of this act can be imprisoned for 30 years and fined $10,000.

DON'T LIKE TRADE UNIONS.

Columbus, Ga., May 4.—Mill managers in this section don't like trade unions and freely express their opinion on this subject. The following notice has been posted in the cheap-labor Eagle and Phenix mills:

"We think we can confidently appeal to our employes to establish the claim we make; that we are their friends, and are considerate of their interest. We want, in return, the friendship and confidence of our employes.

"Labor unions are not promotive of friendly relations between employers and employes, but are the occasion of estrangement. Efforts have been made to establish labor unions among our operatives.

"We hereby announce, and wish the operatives to understand, that we do not desire labor unions to be organized or exist among our employes, and we hereby request that such of our employes as are members of a labor union, and purpose to continue so, apply at once to their respective overseers, and get their time, and apply to the office for settlement.

"We further give notice hereby that after two weeks from this date, no one will be employed, or continued in the employment of this mill who shall be a member of such labor union."

SENATOR SHERMAN TALKS.

Washington, May 4.—The ship of state wobbled for a spell last week when United States Senator Sherman resumed.

The senator again viewed with alarm. The president's cabinet is now persona non grata. Recently it was President Gompers.

"I can't undetstand," said the Illinois lawmaker, "why the president has surrounded himself with these economic freaks."

Several pages of the Congressional Record were filled and important war legislation was sidetracked because of senatorial courtesy.

The last reports indicate that the ship of state has struck an even keel and is again on her way.

The senator is expected to resume at an early date.

HIGH WAGES NECESSARY.

Washington, May 4.—The United States bureau of labor statistics has completed a study of the cost of living in the New York shipbuilding district. A personal visit by agents of the bureau to 608 families shows that 1917 expenditures by these families averaged $1,348.64.

The necessity for high wage scales to meet present living costs is shown in these increases over the year 1914. In 1915, 1.97 per cent; in 1916, 14.91 per cent; in 1917, 44.68 per cent.

DRIVERS ADVANCE.

Rock Island, Ill., May 4.—A strike of organized teamsters that affected Rock Island and vicinity has been adjusted. Wages are increased and working conditions improved.

Cincinnati, May 4. — Furniture Drivers' union No. 104 has secured a wage increase of $2 a week, with a promise of an additional increase next October.

WIN TWO-YEARS' STRIKE.

Hannibal, Mo., May 4.—Plumbers' union No. 581 has shown the value of sticktoitiveness by winning a two-years' strike against plumbing contractors. The agreement calls for the union shop and wage increases of nearly 40 per cent.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Nashville, Tenn., May 4.—Typographical union No. 20 has raised wages of its members employed in commercial shops. [illegible]

CARPENTERS MAKE GAINS.

Indianapolis, May 4.—General Secretary Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports these recent wage increases by affiliated locals:

Wood River, Jacksonville and Kankakee, Ill; Springfield, Mass., and Terre Haute, Ind.; from 55 to 65 cents an hour. Ottumwa and Boone, Iowa; Escanaba, Mich., Vincennes, Ind.; Winona, Minn.; Newark, O., 50 to 60 cents. New Castle, Pa.; 56¼ to 70 cents. Niagara Falls, N. Y.; 57½ to 65 cents; millmen, 47 1-2 to 55 cents. Reynoldsville, Pa.; O'Fallon, Ill.; Fall River, Mass.; 50 to 62½ cents. Williamsport, Pa.; Greenfield, Mass.; 45 to 55 cents. Bucyrus, Ohio; 30 and 40 to 50 cents. Steubenville, Ohio.; Rawlins, Wyo.; 65 to 80 cents. Pekin and Belleville, Ill.; Aberdeen, Wash.; 60 to 70 cents. St. Joseph, Mo.; 60 to 65 cents. Rochester, Minn.; Kane, Pa.; Ashland, Ky.; Oneida, N. Y.; 45 to 60 cents; latter secures Saturday half holiday. Port Huron, Mich.; 45 to 50 cents. Paterson, N. J.; 56¼ to 65 cents. Watertown, N. Y.; 55 to 62½ cents. Fort Worth, Tex.; 67½ to 75 cents. Elmira, N. Y.; 57 1-2 cent minimum. St. Catherine, Ontario; 50 to 55 cents. Chester, Ill.; Findlay, Ohio; 40 to 50 cents. Mechanicsville, N. Y.; 47½ to 55 cents. Ottawa, Ill.; 57½ to 65 cents, for outside men; 50 to 55 cents for millmen. Hoquiam, Wash.; Bloomington, Ill.; Pittsburg, Kan.; 60 to 75 cents. Pittsfield, Ill.; 33 1-3 to 45 cents. Chicago, 70 to 80 cents for outside men; 45 to 55 cents for millmen, until April 1, 1919; 60 cents from that date until March 31, 1920. Albuquerque, N. M.; 62½ to 75 cents. Sesser, Ill.; 50 to 70 cents. New Philadelphia, Ohio; 50 to 65 cents. Pittsburg, Pa., 52 7-9 to 60 cents for millmen. Peeksville, N. Y.; Hannibal, Mo.; 50 to 62½ cents. Wallace, Idaho; Tulsa, Okla.; 75 to 87½ cents. El Centro, Cal.; $5 a day until July 1 next; thereafter, $6 until July 1, 1919; Saturday half holiday during July, August and September; union shop. Bozeman, Mont.; $5 to $6 a day. Brownwood, Texas; $4 to $5 a day. Watsonville, Cal.; $4.50 to $5 a day. Greensboro, N. C., and Danville, Va., reduced the work day from 10 to 9 hours; Charleston, S. C., secured the eight-hour day.

OPPOSE MOB LAW.

New York, May 4.—In opposing mob law in an address to the convention of the American Newspapers Publishers' association, ex-United States Supreme Justice Hughes said:

"Our judicial processes have not yet broken down and we still have confidence in their adequacy to punish treason and sedition.

"The effective prosecution of the war involves of necessity certain restrictions in our accustomed freedom.

"Congress has ample authority to provide for the punishment of seditious utterances as well as seditious acts."

These views are in line with statements made last November by President Wilson at the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor. He said:

"A man who takes the law into his hands is not the right man to cooperate in any form of our development of law and institutions."

GUN MEN WANTED A STRIKE.

Duluth, Minn., May 4.—The Labor World joins in the general jeer against Judge McGee, chairman of the state public safety commission, who journeyed to Washington recently and assured the government that his commission, among other things, stopped a strike of ore workers last winter.

The Labor World says: "As a matter of fact there was no more danger of an iron ore strike in this state last year than there was of a wind famine on Lake Superior. It is true there was considerable strike talk in the newspapers, but it did not come from the miners. Special agents of the department of justice ran the thing down and they traced the origin of all strike talk to the spies and paid agents of mining companies who kept the pot boiling to save their jobs—to justify the companies in retaining their services."

BOOKBINDERS ACTIVE.

Indianapolis, May 4.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report the membership increase for March, 1918, over the same month of 1917 was 4,156 members.

Bookbinders' union No. 224 of Jackson, Miss., is negotiating wage scales throughout that state.

The Syracuse, N. Y., local of bookbinders is conducting an organization campaign, which includes bindery women.

The sixteenth biennial convention of the brotherhood convenes in Kansas City, July 8 next.

NO STRIKES; WILL ARBITRATE

Indianapolis, May 4.—The Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International union has signed a five-year agreement with the Tile and Mantel Contractors' association. Arbitration will supplant strikes during this period. For two years wages will be $5.75 for an eight-hour day.

Tile layers will not work on "peddled" contracts. This means that the union will stand with the employers in insisting that contracts must be awarded to one of the original bidders, thereby ending a competition that destroys conditions.

R. R. HAS RECORD YEAR.

Chicago, May 4.—Operating revenues of the Illinois Central railroad for 1917 amounted to $87,144,-136, an increase of $12,404,[illegible]. These revenues were the largest in [illegible]

LABOR IS NOT SCARCE.

Washington, May 4.—The weekly employment survey of the United States employment service indicates that while the building trades situation has shown some improvement, great numbers of house carpenters and other workers in the building trades still unemployed make the situation serious. The latest survey shows that 33 cities have a surplus in building trades, while normal conditions prevail in 34 and a shortage in 4. During the previous week, 37 cities had a surplus, while 20 reported an exact balance of supply and demand, and 8 cities had a shortage.

A slightly better equalization of supply and demand in the divisions of mechanics and skilled trades is shown. Twenty-eight cities report a shortage of mechanics, 9 a surplus, and 32 normal conditions. A shortage of workers in skilled trades is indicated in 36 cities, while 4 have a surplus and 33 normal conditions.

Little change appears in the common labor and farm labor situations. As against 38 cities needing more common labor, 8 report a surplus and 21 an even supply and demand. Farm labor is being sought in greater numbers by 31 cities, while 10 others have a surplus of workers and 32 normal conditions.

Four cities show a surplus of women labor, as against only one the preceding week. Forty-five cities, however, want more women, chiefly for domestic work, and 11 report normal conditions.

EDITOR DEFENDS KEY MEN.

San Francisco, May 4.—Editor Barry, of the San Francisco Star, defends the Commercial Telegraphers' union in its present contest with the Western Union Telegraph company.

"Probably there is today, no class of skilled workers worse paid than the commercial telegraphers of the country," he says. "This is due to two reasons—the systematic suppression of all efforts at unionization, and the fact that two large corporations—the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph company—have an absolute monopoly of employment, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

"Ignoring the temporary 'bonuses,' wages are but little higher than 20 years ago, though government statistics show an enormous increase in living expenses.

"Now, the operators, relying on public sentiment and the disposition of the government to accord freedom of contract between employers and employed, together with the right of combination, purpose to pursue their organization, which has been surreptitious, and to defy the secret rules of the Western Union forbidding the exercise of this right. They announce that they will not attempt a strike, but are prepared to face a lockout."

PACKERS ON EIGHT HOURS.

Chicago, May 4.—Eight hours will constitute the basic work day in America's packing industry, starting Sunday, May 5, as a result of a recent decision by Federal Judge Alschuler, acting as arbitrator. Where operations are continued during the 24 hours three shifts of eight hours each, with lunch time to be paid by the employers, shall be the rule. Double time will be paid for Sundays and holidays, including New Year's, Memorial day, Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving and Christmas, or the days legally celebrated in lieu thereof.

Judge Alschuler said this industry was on a 11, 12 and 13-hour basis. The change was made possible by the workers uniting in trade unions and threatening to strike if the employers would not accept arbitration.

FAKE "UNION" EXPOSED.

New York, May 4.—In its endeavor to secure increased fares, the Interborough Traction company ordered the officers of its company-controlled "union" to appear before the city authorities and ask that fares be increased so that wages may be raised.

The "unionists" were told:

"If you think organized labor is in favor of a 6-cent fare, why not ask organized labor to petition the board of estimates for this fare increase?"

President Shonts of the Interborough smashed the Street Car Men's union recently. Now Mr. Shonts has a "union" of his own, and has written a pamphlet on the necessity for unity between employer and employed.

MINERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, May 4.—Alabama coal miners have raised their day wage scale 75 cents, as a result of a conference in this city with representatives of the fuel administration and their employers. Five cents a ton advance was secured for pick miners and 4 cents a ton to loaders of machine-mined coal. These gains are the result of a successful organizing campaign started last June. Alabama was supposed to be an anti-union bulwark.

SAUER KRAUT IN BAD.

New York, May 4.—Dislike of German things has struck sauer kraut an awful wallop and dealers in that able-bodied dish are disconsolate. They have asked the federal food board would matters be improved if the dish were christened Liberty cabbage.

FIRST UNION LOGGING CAMP.

Eureka, Cal., May 4.—Timber Workers' union No. 12 has signed an agreement with the Thompson & Merrill Logging company. This is the first union logging camp in [illegible]

ALLEGED "PATRIOTS" BLOW UP UNION HOME

Birmingham, Ala., May 4.—The home of M. V. Hale was dynamited after he had refused to cease his labors as an A. F. of L. organizer. Hale's home is near this city and his wife and child, who were alone at the time, narrowly escaped being killed.

In an affidavit, Hale says:

"I was approached by agents of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company, who offered me a monetary consideration if I would discontinue my activities, which I refused. They then insinuated that other methods would be employed to force me to cease organizing.

"On Saturday evening, April 20, we had arranged a meeting at Hillman Station, and when we arrived at the hall that had been engaged for the meeting, we were refused admittance by armed men, generally known as gun men in the employ of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company, and compelled to leave. The same gun men followed myself and Organizer J. C. Lowney, of Birmington, wherever we went that evening.

"On Sunday afternoon following we encountered the same experience at a meeting arranged at Mason city hall by the same gun men, accompanied by several others."

Attached to the affidavit is a reproduction of the notice sent to the owner of one of the halls:

"We, the Patriaoctical Committee, understands that you have allowed the I. W. W. or German agitators to hold meetings in your hall on the 16th of Apr. inst. We the Committee feel that you did not know some things that we did and We notify you now, for it you allow these meetings to continue you may loose your hall somb how or something may happen. We can't tell you must be loyal to your country & State." Committee."

GIRLS WORK AT MINE.

Coaldale, Pa., May 4.—In protesting against the employment of girls at the Nesquehoning coal breaker, Benjamin F. Davis, auditor for District No. 7, United Mine Workers, said:

"Is it from a viewpoint of production with a patriotic plea of meeting the demands, when only last month Nesquehoning colliery carried the honor of the highest production of coal of any colliery in the valley, while the others were normal.

"Are we to believe that the scarcity of labor has become so serious that before the first draft of men for military service is exhausted this un-American idea is a real necessity, when thousands of men all over the country are suffering through enforced idleness. In the Fairmont region of West Virginia alone 1500 men and their families are in actual danger of starvation. From a humanitarian and patriotic standpoint would it not be of infinitely greater value to the nation to see that the man power so greatly needed is employed rather than sow seeds of industrial discord by the employment of girls in such places as the coal breakers."

FOOD COSTS JUMP.

Washington May 4. — The United States bureau of labor statistics issues these interesting figures on the increased cost of food:

Between January 15 and February 15, 1918, the increase was 1 per cent.

From February 15, 1917, to February 15, 1918, food costs as a whole advanced 21 per cent.

From February, 1913, to February, 1918, food as a whole increased 66 per cent. During this five-year period corn meal advanced 128, lard, 113; potatoes, 109, and flour 100 per cent. Milk, round steak, bread, ham, hens, pork chops, bacon, sugar and eggs show increases ranging from 51 per cent for milk to 95 per cent for eggs. The smallest changes are noted in sirloin steak, rib roast and butter, each of these increasing 40 per cent.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Charleston, S. C., May 4.—Garment Workers' union No. 197 has secured substantial wage increases which benefit 500 employes. A large number of other workers will also be affected.

Boston, May 4.—As the result of conferences with employers, white goods and overall workers, affiliated with the United Garment Workers, have raised wages 10 per cent. These workers appreciate the force that made this gain possible and have raised their union dues.

ORDERS 30,000 CARS.

Washington, May 4.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has placed an order for 30,000 steel box and coal cars. It is believed the order will be filled in time for the fall and winter business for the railroads. The amount involved is between eighty and ninety million dollars. Negotiations for the construction of 70,000 additional freight cars are pending.

METAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Kansas City, Mo., May 4.—Officers of the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers' International Alliance report that 40 local unions have been chartered within the past 60 days. Of this number, 22 are railroad shop men.

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, May 4.—Wage increases and a signed agreement for its members employed in sausage making has been secured by [illegible] union No. [illegible]

STRIKES DISAPPEAR; RECORD FOR COUNTRY

Philadelphia, May 4.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has arrayed facts against the noisy claims of publicity seekers who insist that the nation is seething with strikes.

In an address before the American academy of political and social science, the cabinet official said that "we have fewer labor strikes at the present time than at any other period within my recollection, notwithstanding the fact that it is the period of the year when strikes are usually most numerous.

"There is not a solitary strike in the coal industry, the packing house industry, in the oil industry, the lumbering industry, the shipbuilding industry, in the steel production, transportation, telegraph or telephone systems of the country, and only a few strikes of minor importance in the textile industry, metal trades, munitions factories and all other production enterprises.

"To summarize, the highest efficiency can only be obtained by the proper treatment of the workmen, the proper planning and management of the work to be done, the intelligent mobilizing of the workmen, efficient means of training the partly skilled and unskilled in the work they are to do, complete provisions for sanitation and safety, comfortable homes, a working day sufficiently short to enable the worker to return to his work on each succeeding day fairly refreshed for the task he has to perform. And more important than all of those is the spirit of cooperation of the man who believes he is being justly dealt with."

Secretary Wilson said the worst handicap to labor efficiency now is the heavy turnover in industry caused by men becoming easily dissatisfied with jobs and moving from place to place. Poor housing accommodations, he said, are at the bottom of much of this dissatisfaction.

DISCUSS WAR COSTS.

Washington, May 4.—The committee of the American Economic association appointed to investigate the purchasing power of money in relation to war has submitted a report in which it warns against the financing of business expansion in non-essential lines, and places heavy emphasis on the need of limiting expansion of bank credit.

It is stated that the present generation must pay the cost of the war, because the burden cannot be shifted to the next, and that saving is the soundest method of financing the war.

"When our descendants pay back the billions 'borrowed' today to carry on the war," the report continues, "they are simply as taxpayers paying back to themselves as bondholders. The payment and receipt cancel themselves out. Some people are afraid great loans will saddle the future generation with a crushing burden of taxes. We might just as well talk of great loans enriching the next generation by what their bonds will bring in to them. When the war is over the cost of waging it is over, too.

"Future generations will be saddled, not with the burden of paying for the war, but with the burdens of disease, shattered men, destroyed lands, forests, mines and factories."

WHY MINERS ARE IN LINE.

Indianapolis, May 4.—"The United Mine Workers of America are traditionally opposed to militarism and war," says the Mine Workers' Journal.

"The only way to prevent war is by first destroying militarism.

"Germany, the champion of militarism, has challenged the world. Those who hate militarism and war are given the choice of submitting to the military dominance of Germany, or building up a military machine sufficiently powerful to defeat the machine with which Germany backs up her challenge.

"Russia tried to find a way out by opposing German bayonets with the philosophy of human brotherhood.

"The result has proved conclusively that there is in honor but one way out, and that is to fight it out.

"That is why the miners of America are whole-heartedly in favor of this war, and believe that for the future good of the world it must be a fight to the finish."

BOWS TO UNCLE SAM.

St. Paul, Minn., May 4.—President Crosby of the American Hoist and Derrick company is one of those gentlemen who "won't be dictated to" by labor unions. He conducts a model anti-union plant, with long hours the general rule. Recently he secured several government contracts and paid as much attention to the federal eight-hour law as he would to a request from a trade union.

But Mr. Crosby has new views on running his business since Uncle Sam called his attention to the eight-hour law. The plant now pays overtime in excess of eight hours and trade unionists are suggesting to these employes that if they organize other gains can be secured.

LABOR SITUATION IMPROVES.

Olympia, Wash., May 4.—The labor situation in this state is better than at any time since the beginning of the war, according to C. H. Younger, state labor commissioner.

"I believe that strikes will be made impossible because of mediation," he said. "The outlook is better than ever before. There is real ground for optimism. I do not look for any strikes of a serious nature."

CLERKS GET BACK PAY.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 4.—The Seaboard Air Line railroad has paid its clerks the 20 per cent wage increase and back pay, as ordered by a mediator last February. The clerks suspended work last September. The increase covers back pay from October 15, 1917, to January 1, 1918, and is based upon rates paid August 1, 1917.

CANADIANS HAIL GOMPERS.

Ottawa, Ontario, May 4. — Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, addressed a joint session of the senate and house of commons. An official welcome was tendered the trade unionist by Speaker Rhodes, of the house of commons.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Rock Island, Ill., May 4.—Employing painters have accepted a new wage scale and signed a one-year agreement. Rates are increased from 62 to [illegible] cents an hour.

I. W. W.'S FINANCED BY COPPER MANAGERS?

Pheonix, Ariz., May 4.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Arizona state council of defense, attended by Arizona mine managers, a trade unionist dared the copper companies to favor a government investigation of the charge that they had paid the expenses of I. W. W's.

The challenge was not accepted.

The mine managers denied that they were responsible for industrial unrest and reduced copper production in Arizona.

Charges and counter charges were made, when H. S. McCluskey, organizer of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, hurled this defi at Charles E. Mills, general manager of the Inspiration Consolidated Copper company:

"I challenge you, as a member of the executive committee of the state council of defense, to make a motion asking for an impartial board, appointed by the Taft-Walsh commission, to investigate the labor situation in Arizona and the charge that your company has paid the fare of I. W. W.'s into Arizona."

"Will you make that motion?" asked McCluskey.

The mine manager's reply was an emphatic "No."

INTERN THIS GERMAN.

San Francisco, May 4.—The labor council asks the government to investigate Walter V. Woehlke, editor of the Sunset Magazine.

Woehlke is credited with originating many of the yarns that labor in the ship yards is not efficient, is indifferent to the fate of our military forces, and that these workers have "consciously and deliberately withheld their energies" in a work that is so vital at this time.

In resolutions, the labor council says:

"Our traducer, Walter V. Woehlke, a German by birth, educated in German schools, and having connection with affairs that brought him close to the realm of German autocracy, wrote in pre-war articles of his sympathy with the spirit of tyranny and oppression in his fatherland, and declared in his articles that 'his presence in the United States would add nothing to its military power,' and other statements that would bring his loyalty to this government into question."

Woehlke's reflections against organized labor have been reprinted in various forms by conscription-of-labor advocates, who circulate these stories while denouncing German propoganda in this country.

Seattle, May 4.—The metal trades council has asked the government to suppress the Sunset Magazine and intern its editor, Walter V. Woehlke, who is denounced as a pro-German agitator and professional trouble-maker.

The metal workers condemn Woehlke for his attacks on the Skinner & Eddy corporation and its employes. This concern operates a strictly union shop and has smashed all records in building ships. Its latest record was the launching of a 8,800-ton ship 55 days after the keel was laid.

TO REDUCE WAITING TIME.

Olympia, Wash., May 4.—A fight to abolish the seven-day waiting period required of injured workmen before they can receive compensation from the state accident fund will be made before the next legislature by organized labor. Under this law injured workmen receive no payments from the state if their injuries are healed sufficiently to permit them to return to work within eight days after the accident.

"This was intended to stop fakers from stealing small sums of money from the accident fund, but it has not worked out that way," said H. L. Hughes, of the state industrial insurance department.

"On paper it is figured that the waiting period has saved the employers $90,000, but I don't believe it. There is a great danger in infection in minor hurts and wounds. Many of our serious cases were due to such infection. Workmen will not take the trouble to have their hurts properly treated when they receive no compensation, especially where the wounds are small. This often leads to other accidents. The waiting period is wrong in principle, and does not work out."

PRIVATE INSURANCE LOSES.

Columbus, Ohio, May 4.—Common Pleas Judge Evans has dissolved an injunction against the state industrial commission which would stay this board from ousting private insurance companies from Ohio.

The commission insists that the state workmen's compensation law intends to accomplish this purpose, and it is acting accordingly. Last December the companies secured an injunction against the commission. The latter has been assisted by the Ohio state federation of labor in its fight for state-compensation only. Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor says that Judge Evans' action marks another step toward the elimination of the insurance companies from the workmen's compensation field in Ohio. The companies have appealed Judge Evans' decision.

QUEENSLAND LABOR WINS.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, May 4.—The Labor party of this Australian state has been returned to power, after a campaign that attracted the attention of the entire commonwealth. At the beginning of the war the Labor party controlled all of the Australian states except Victoria. Since then every state has been lost except Queensland. An element in this situation is the capitalization of the war by anti-union employers. In the recent election Queensland workers broke all records, for never before has an Australian government, after serving three full years, been returned with anything like the numbers that it previously held.

BAKERY DRIVERS GAIN.

San Francisco, May 4.—Wages have been increased $3.75 a week by the Bakery Wagon Drivers' union. The new rate is $28.75 a week. The work day is reduced from nine to eight hours with an additional holiday with pay, making seven holidays a year. Overtime rates have been increased from 65 cents to $1 an hour.

METAL WORKERS UNITE.

Hannibal, Mo., May 4.—[illegible]